March 2000

Astonishing Stories presents

PROMETHEA

WARRIOR PRINCESS of HY BRASIL™ 6

"THE SCHEME OF THE SCARLETINE SORCERER!"

AN AMERICA'S BEST COMICS™ PUBLICATION

Alan Moore
J.H. Williams III
Mick Gray Todd Klein

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SOUTH TOWER HOSPITAL, NEW YORK, 1999 A.D.!
THIS WATCH WAS GIVEN TO ME BEFORE I WENT TO WAR
SHH!

NOT TOO CLOSE, ROGER! TRY TO SWAT THE DOLL FROM A DISTANCE! HE MAY BE WIRED WITH EXPLOSIVES!
KENNETH! WHAT'S YOUR PSYCHIC PROBE TELLING US?
RRRAAARRGH!
I...I DON'T KNOW. I'M NOT REALLY GETTING ANY SIGNAL. IT'S LIKE...
IT'S LIKE THERE'S NOTHING THERE.

THE 5 SWELL GUYS in FIREFIGHT ON TH AVENUE! ("MARV'S LAST MEMORY" MIX)

ALAN MOORE, WRITER | J.H. WILLIAMS III, PENCILLER | MICK GRAY, INKER | JEROMY N. COX, COLORIST | TODD KLEIN, LETTERER | ERIC DESANTIS, ASSISTANT ED. | SCOTT DUNBIER, EDITOR

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NOTHING THERE? KENNETH, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WE CAN ALL SEE HIM...
BOB, IT'S ONE OF HIS DOLLOGRAMS. IT HAS TO BE!
AND IF THE PAINTED DOLL'S NOT DOWN THERE, THAT MEAN'S HE'S SOMEWHERE...
...ELSE...
=GUNNGH=
OH GOD.
ROGER! STAN! IT'S THE DOLL! HE'S...
HUPLA!
AAA!

...GETTING WORSE. APPARENTLY HER BODY'S REJECTING THE CLONEMEAT THEY GRAFTED ON.
SAY, WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT KID WHO WAS VISITING SHELLEY? THE ONE WHO FAINTED?
OH, THEY STUCK HER IN A SIDE-WARD. SHE STILL HASN'T REVIVED.
WE CALLED THE COLLEGE. THEY'LL CONTACT HER FAMILY. PROBABLY SHE'S ON SOME DESIGNER DRUG.
I'M BORED WITH MY HUSBAND. AND I'M HUNGRY.
YEAH, PROBABLY.
...IS ON. ONLY TWO MORE NIGHTS, THEN ALLY McBEAL IS ON. ONLY TWO...

RRRURRR! LOOK HOW THEY TRY AND GET AWAY!
DIDN'T SHE SEE THE SPIKED HEADS? LITTLE GIRLS SHOULDN'T GO TRESPASSING IN THE TRANCI-PALITY!
OH GOD, OH GOD...
HERRRGH! LET HER RUN. IT'S ALWAYS FUNNY, AND IT TIRES THEM OUT. SO, WHAT DO YOU HAVE YOUR EYE ON?
LEG, BREAST, OR WING?

PROMETHEA

CREATED BY ALAN MOORE AND J.H. WILLIAMS III

A WARRIOR PRINCESS of HY BRASIL

HURRRM. PROBABLY LEG. SHE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SHE'S GOT MUCH ON HER...
GNRRR. I DON'T KNOW. LOOKS YOUNG. QUALITY CUTS. NICE IF YOU HANG THEM UNTIL THEY'RE A BIT GAMEY.
OH NO. OH NO...

NNARRR. WASTE OF GOOD MEAT. WE ALWAYS USED TO ROAST THEM WHOLE WITH LITTLE CLOVES STUCK IN. LOVELY.
MWOORRH. YOU'RE MAKING ME DRIBBLE.
LET'S DO HER NOW.

PLEASE WAKE UP, WAKE UP, WAKE UP...
OH GOD...
IT'S A CRAZE WITH THE LITTLE ONES. THERE'S THESE TINY TENDONS YOU CAN PULL SO THAT THE FINGERS MOVE.
IT LOOKS REAL COMICAL. HUHURRGH...

AH, YES...
...THAT'S...
...ABSOLUTELY...
...SUPER!
YOU'RE... YOU'RE ANOTHER PROMETHEA.
NO, DEAR. YOU'RE ANOTHER PROMETHEA. I AM THE PROMETHEA. I'M GRACE BRANNAGH, AND I'M RATHER THE CLASSIC MODEL.
NOW, COULD YOU BE AN ABSOLUTE TREASURE AND GRAB ONE OF THESE BLOODROOSTERS FROM ME, INSTEAD OF JUST GOGGLING?

GRACE BRANNAGH? YOU DID ALL THOSE PROMETHEA PULP COVERS, IN THE 1920S...
DARLING, I LIVED ALL THOSE PROMETHEA PULP COVERS IN THE 1920S.
YOU'VE NO IDEA HOW THOROUGHLY SICK ONE CAN BECOME OF TORTURE CHAMBERS, DEMON ALTARS, HUNCHBACKS AND SKELETONS.
UH, YEAH. I GUESS.
LISTEN, MY NAME'S SOPHIE BANGS.
I WAS JUST WITH MARGARET.., THE PROMETHEA BEFORE YOU? BUT THEN I LOST HER AND ENDED UP HERE WITH THOSE LIZARD MEN CHASING ME...
THEY'RE CALLED MANIGATORS, DARLING. NOT LIZARD MEN.
AND I'M PERFECTLY AWARE WHO YOU ARE.
DEAR BARBARA CAN'T SHUT UP ABOUT YOU TACKLING THAT SMEE AND THOSE IMPS FROM THE HOWLING.
SHE'S VERY EASILY IMPRESSED, POOR THING. ANYWAY, ARE YOU GOING TO SADDLE UP, OR NOT?
H-HUH? ON THIS THING?
DARLING, IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE PROMETHEA, I'M SURE YOU'LL END UP WITH MUCH STRANGER THINGS BETWEEN YOUR KNEES.
NOW, I GATHER I'M SUPPOSED TO BE PROVIDING THE NEXT STAGE OF YOUR TUITION. WHAT DID MARGARET TEACH YOU?
UH... ABOUT WAR, MOSTLY.
BOYS CALLING FOR THEIR MOTHERS, ALL THAT STUFF? FRIGHTFULLY MOVING, ISN'T SHE?
MARGARET'S BIG ON COMPASSION, AS SYMBOLIZED BY THE CUP. THAT'S WHAT SHE TAUGHT YOU: THE WAY OF THE CUP.
NOW I'M GOING TO TEACH YOU THE WAY OF THE SWORD.

OH DEAR. YOU'RE RATHER LITERAL, AREN'T YOU?
YOU SEE, DARLING, ON THIS LEVEL, EVERYTHINGS SYMBOLIC. EVERYTHING STANDS FOR SOMETHING ELSE.
WHAT, LIKE CHOPPING PEOPLE UP AND STUFF?
SWORDS STAND FOR REASON AND DISCRIMINATION. FRANKLY, DEAR, THEY CUT THROUGH BULLSHIT.
AND ALLIGATOR GUYS. YOU CUT THROUGH THEM, TOO. THERE'S BLOOD ALL OVER THIS SADDLE...
REASON SLICES THROUGH ILLUSION AND HALLUCINATION, DARLING. THAT'S ALL THE MANIGATORS ARE.
NASTY LITTLE FIGMENTS DREAMED UP BY A NASTY LITTLE MIND.
BUT... EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE FIGMENTS, THEY'RE STILL DANGEROUS HERE?
OH, GOOD GOD, YES. EAT YOU FROM THE TOES UP AS SOON AS LOOK AT YOU!
I'VE BEEN FIGHTING THEM OFF FOR YEARS. AFTER ALL, DARLING, HY BRASIL'S SUPPOSED TO BE MY TERRI-TORY.
SO... HY BRASIL. THAT'S, LIKE, AN AREA OF THE IMMATERIA, RIGHT?
ROUGHLY SPEAKING. IT OVERLAPS WITH FAIRYLAND AND TIR-NA-NOG AND PLACES LIKE THAT, BUT, BASICALLY, IT'S MINE.
OR AT LEAST IT WAS, UNTIL THE USURPER TOOK IT FROM ME...
USURPER? BUT I DON'T REMEMBER YOUR THRONE GETTING USURPED IN ANY OF THOSE OLD PULP STORIES...
NO, THIS HAPPENED SINCE THEN. IN FACT, THE USURPER IS THE BEING THAT WROTE THOSE OLD PULP STORIES.
THE BEING THAT CREATED THE MANIGATORS...

...IN THE MARCH, 1927 ISSUE OF ASTONISHING, AS I RECALL
HIS NAME'S MARIO NEPTURA
OH GOD, HE'S SO BIG!
"CAN YOU FIGHT ANYBODY WHO'S..."
WAIT A MINUTE! MARIO NEPTURA? WASN'T THAT JUST A HOUSE PSEUDONYM FOR ANY HACK WHO WROTE PROMETHEA BACK IN THE '20S?
EXACTLY, DARLING. NEPTURA'S A PSEUDONYM FOR HARMLESS FICTION...
...EXCEPT HERE, WHERE HE'S NON-FICTION AND NON-HARMLESS, FOR THAT MATTER
Promethea: Think not that I do not SEE thou, little one.
Neptura sees ALL!
STUPID MAN. IT'S "THEE," NOT "THOU." HOPELESS WITHOUT AN EDITOR!
OH, WELL. LET'S GO AND MAKE A FEW SIGNIFICANT CUTS IN HIS MAJOR PASSAGES
FOOL! My dark power shall SCORCH thou!

AAA! HE'S IMAGINARY. HOW COME THIS GUY'S SO POWERFUL?
BECAUSE HE'S AN IMAGINARY WRITER, DEAR. WRITERS SHAPE THE STUFF OF FICTION, SO HERE, HE CAN DO ANYTHING.
FOLLOW ME THROUGH THOSE GATES UP AHEAD
UGGH. MORE HEADS. I SAW SOME AT THE KINGDOM'S BORDERS, EARLIER
I SAID HE WAS A WRITER, POPPET. I DIDN'T SAY HE WAS A GOOD WRITER.
HE REPEATS HIMSELF AWFULLY. HE HAS VERY FEW SURPRISES UP HIS SLEEVE...
AND FRANKLY, YOU CAN SEE THEM COMING A MILE OFF
STAY BEHIND ME AND KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN.

JEEZ, .
AAIIEEEGHH!
GUNNGH! I SEE NOTHING BUT BLASTED MANIGATORS. YOU'D THINK I'D NEVER FOUGHT ANYTHING ELSE!
DOESN'T HE REMEMBER "PROMETHEA AND THE SCREAMING CLOUD"? OR THOSE LEOPARD BOYS FROM "CLAWS OF THE CAT-CULT"? NOW, ACTUALLY, THEY WERE RATHER DISHY.
WH-WHERE ARE WE HEADING?
NEPTURA'S "EYRIE OF EVIL." I MEAN, DO YOU SEE WHAT I'M SAYING ABOUT HIS WRITING? DREADFUL NAME
WHAT'S WORSE, THE PLACE USED TO BE MY BEDCHAMBER. THAT'S WHY HE OCCUPIED IT. THE POOR CREATURE'S UTTERLY BESOTTED WITH ME
AH-AH! NOW, NOW, DARLING MUSTN'T TOUCH
GHEEUR-RCHHH...
B-BESOTTED? WHAT, YOU MEAN THIS WIZARD GUY? WITH YOU?
WELL, I SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT WAS RATHER OBVIOUS. ALL THAT DRIVEL HE WROTE ABOUT MY TAUT THIGHS AND HEAVING BOSOM...
I MEAN, I DON'T THINK I CAN REMEMBER MY BOSOM EVER HAVING HEAVED. HAS YOURS?
AH THERE'S THE TOWER, RIGHT UP AHEAD.
I THOUGHT NEPTURA WAS THAT GUY FLYING THE SKY?
THAT'S JUST A PROJECTION. HE'LL BE IN THE TOWER.
DRAT HE'S SENT LEECH-LEAVES.
LEECH-LEAVES? WHAT ARE ..OW! THEY BITE!
YES...AND THEY SUCK BLOOD. I'M AFRAID THEY'RE FROM NEPTURA'S VAMPIRE TOPIARY.
JUST SLAP THEM AWAY
THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO REACH THE WIZARD'S EYRIE, AND...
HMM. THAT'S ODD
WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SOMEONE'S WATCHING US. I CAN FEEL IT
IT'S NOT NEPTURA, IT'S NOT THE OTHER PROMETHEAS...
I CAN'T, . OW! I I CAN'T FEEL ANYTHING.
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE A KEEN ENOUGH EDGE TO YOUR MIND AND SENSES YET
SOMEONE'S WATCHING. SOMEONE FAR AWAY. IT'S...
...IT'S YOU!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE SPYING ON, YOU GRUBBY LITTLE ADOLESCENT?

* I... UH...
MY GOD.
SHE CAN SEE ME
B-BUT HOW ON EARTH CAN SHE POSSIBLY...
HEY!
HEY!!
WH-WHAT... UH...
THAT'S MY FRIEND! WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MY FRIEND? YOU'RE NOT A DOCTOR!
WERE YOU PERVING ON HER? WERE YOU?
NO! I...LOOK, I WANDERED INTO THE WRONG ROOM. I'M SORRY...
OUT! GO ON, GET OUT!
JEEZ, EVERY TIME I LEAVE HER ALONE...
...I COME BACK SHE'S UNCONSCIOUS AND THERE'S SOME OLD BALD GUY FEEL-ING HER UP!
B-BUT I WASN'T.
OH. THERE'S YOUR FRIEND NOW...
KENNETH?

HEY! YOU'RE A NURSE! YOU GET THIS GUY OUT OF MY FRIEND'S ROOM!
BUT...
KENNETH, YOU IDIOT! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE WATCHING MARV!
HEY!...I KNOW YOU! YOU'RE THAT NEW ROGER FROM THE FIVE SWELL GUYS!
SO, IS THE OLD ROGER EVER COMING BACK?
NO. HE ISN'T
COME ON, KENNETH. WE HAVE TO TALK.
L-LOOK, I JUST MADE A MISTAKE...
SURE! LIKE WHEN MARV GOT SHOT! KENNETH, THE DOLL'S BEEN SEEN! HE MAY INTEND ON COMING BACK TO FINISH THE JOB!
COME ON--
--LET'S GO LOOK AT YOUR FRIEND, MISS...?
VAN DE VEER. STACIA VAN DE VEER. I CAME STRAIGHT FROM COLLEGE WHEN I HEARD SOPHIE COLLAPSED.
BOY, SHE'S TOTALLY OUT, HUH?
YES.
NOW, ANSWER ME HONESTLY: HAD SOPHIE TAKEN ANYTHING? IS THERE ANY REASON SHE SHOULD BE LIKE THIS?
I, UH...
I REALLY CAN'T IMAGINE.
The Book of PROMETHEA by Moore & Lopez

HMMPH
WELL, AT LEAST WHOEVER IT WAS HAS STOPPED WATCHING US NOW IF I CAN JUST KICK THIS TURRET DOOR IN...
>HUNNGHH!< THERE!
HARDLY SURPRISING, DEAR. NEPTURA'S PLANTED A HELLOAK SLAP IN THE MIDDLE OF MY LOVELY TERRACE!
THERE! THAT'S FOR MY UPROOTED SYMPHONY BUSHES, YOU SCAB-EATING BRUTE!
OW! TH-THESE LEAVES ARE GETTING WORSE...
BE CAREFUL TO AVOID THE SAP WHEN I CUT IT BACK. IT TENDS TO BLIND YOU AND SEND YOU MAD.
Ahh, Grace What a PICTURE you are, with thine flashing BLADE, thine rippling THEWS.
It would make such a magnificent COVER painting. And for a CAPTION...hmm. Let me THINK...

"PROMETHEA AND THE HAND OF DEATH!"
ALL RIGHT, NEPTURA. I'VE FINALLY HAD ABOUT AS MUCH OF YOUR SHAKY GRAMMAR AND LEERING DESCRIPTIONS AS I CAN BEAR!
UHH...
"OF THE FIVE WRITERS GENERALLY THOUGHT TO BE BEHIND THE NEPTURA PSEUDONYM, GERALD SUMMERS HAD THE MOST SOLID PLOT CONSTRUCTION...
"...WHILE RAY BENNET'S DESCRIPTIVE PASSAGES ARE OFTEN BOTH DISTINCTIVE AND SURPRISINGLY GOOD."
Ah. I know..
"R'PPLING THEWS?" OH, YOU RIDICULOUS CREATURE.
GET BACK, SOPHIE. HE'S THROWING GLOBGOBLINS!
LET'S SEE HOW YOU SPIN WORDS WITHOUT HANDS OR A TONGUE...
SOPHIE? WHAT...?

"LAMONT DAVIES WAS THE MOST PROLIFIC OF THE "NEPTURA" AUTHORS, NARROWLY BEATING BERNARD HAUPT (WHO WAS ALSO NOTABLE FOR HIS MISOGYNISTIC BONDAGE SCENES)...
AAA! What are you...
..doing..
..to..
..me..?
"...AND ASTONISHING EDITOR LOUIS WERNER, WHO SEEMED OBSESSED WITH MEDIEVAL WEAPONRY."
ANNNGE.
Thou HARLOT!
SOPHIE? WHAT ON EARTH HAVE YOU DONE TO HIM?
WH...WELL, IT WAS JUST STUFF FROM MY TERM PAPER.
I FIGURE, EVERYBODY TREATS THIS NEPTURA GUY LIKE HE'S ONE PERSON, BUT REALLY, HE'S, LIKE, ALL THESE DIFFERENT GUYS.
HA! WHAT DELIGHTFUL LOGIC ...AND WHAT SWORDPLAY!
SWORDPLAY?
WELL, YES.
THE SWORD IS REASON, AND YOU'VE JUST WIELDED ONE OF REASON'S SHARPEST TOOLS, WHICH IS REDUCTIONISM.
THAT'S THE PROCESS OF BREAKING DOWN ONE BIG PROBLEM...
...INTO LOTS OF LITTLE PROBLEMS.
YEEEEEEGH!

YOU CHOPPED HIM INTO PIECES, DARLING
YOU KNOW, I'M STARTING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT BARBARA SEES IN YOU. YOU REALLY ARE QUITE GOOD.
WOW, THANKS. A-AM I AS GOOD AS YOU?
GHAAAAA!
HA HA HA! DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK, DEAR. NO ONES AS GOOD AS ME.
NOW, COME ON- EVERYTHING'S SETTLED, AND YOU HAVE A CRASH-COURSE TO BE GETTING ON WITH
HEY EVERYTHING LOOKS DIFFERENT...
WELL, YES. THAT'S BECAUSE I'M IMAGINING IT NOW, RATHER THAN A CONGLOMERATE OF FOURTH-RATE HACKS, AND I'M AN ARTIST.
WE HAVE A BETTER EYE THAN WRITERS
S-SO IS THAT IT? HAVE I LEARNED EVERYTHING?
OF COURSE NOT! THERE ARE FOUR MAGICAL WEAPONS YOU'VE YET TO MASTER THE WAND OR PENTACLE.
BILL WILL HELP YOU. JUST TAKE THE HIGHWAY EAST FROM HY BRASIL AND YOU'LL FIND HER.
GOOD LUCK, DARLING...
...AND FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD, YOU'RE ALMOST CERTAINLY GOING TO NEED IT.

Benjamin Meyer Solomon
WELCOME TO NEW YORK HOME OF THE SWELL GUYS
TEXTure
This is TEXTure. VERY public official SONNY BASKERVILLE today embarked on a much-publicized tour of the city's HOSPITALS.
Hopefully, this should improve the media perception of New York's sleaze-embattled multiple-personality Mayor. This is TEXTure.
YES I'M IN TELEMARKETING SALES..
Weeping Gorilla
Following last nights disastrous St. Marks Place performance, LIMP frontman MONTELIMAR STYLES has checked into a REST HOME.
Speaking under medication, he announced a new, more spiritual direction for the band, influenced by "William Blake and that guy from VERVE."
Meanwhile, New York's South Tower Hospital is on alert following fears of an attack by celebrity omnipath THE PAINTED DOLL
TEXTure
Critically wounded Five Swell Guys member MARV is still a patient at the hospital. This is TEXTure.

COMMITTED TO SAFE AIR TR
UH... LISTEN, BOSS, IF YOU'RE ALL SETTLED IN, MY ROOM'S DOWN THE HALL.
IS THIS SUITE OKAY? I COULD GET THEM TO CHANGE IT IF IT'S TOO BIG...
NO, NO, YOU RUN ALONG. THE SUITE WILL BE PERFECTLY COSY...
...ONCE EVERYBODY'S HERE.
UH...SURE. OKAY.
I-I'LL BE IN ROOM FOUR-ELEVEN IF YOU NEED ME.
I THOUGHT HE'D NEVER LEAVE.
OKAY, BOYS...

LET'S FINISH THIS.
NEXT:
ROCKS AND HARD PLACES

IMAGINARY LINES

Write to us at 7910 Ivanhoe Ave., Suite 438, La Jolla, CA 92037, email: promethea@wildstorm.com. All letters appreciated!

Dear Unnamed Responder to Letters:

Before I get to my point, let me briefly explain why I must rank PROMETHEA a little lower in my book than TOM STRONG or TOMORROW STORIES: it's that your story is ultimately plot-driven and not character-driven. I can tell that great effort is made to spend time on your characters and present situations in which they might have a chance to solidify and grow on the reader. However, in the end the characters are almost all just closet (Stacia, the spontaneous and "shocking" college lesbian) or ideas with which it is impossible to empathize (Barbara, whose life is tragedy at every issue; yet she displays no emotion, or Charlton Sennet, who's personal justification for adultery was... well, it was... sensitive poets just can't put up with any of their wives' bull****).

While PROMETHEA is not my favorite of the ABC line, I do enjoy the story immensely and look forward to picking up a new issue every month to see how the idea is unfolding. And it was in that state of gleeful faith that I was driven to needless anger when reading your letters column in issue 4. The comment was regarding "Big Rudy" and a letter from a reader in New York who felt "molested by his own mayor on a regular basis." It is understood that each reader is completely entitled to his own opinion; that's the whole idea behind a letters page. But instead of remaining neutral in your response or making a comment to offset the reader's viewpoint, you jumped on board and took a few shots at "Big Rudy" as well.

Giuliani is a Republican and therefore deserves a lot of criticism (I'm not being sarcastic here). However, Giuliani also has one of the largest and most loyal bases, both inside the city and out. Could you have possibly picked a more popular politician to badmouth? I LOVE the current mayor of New York, and you, as official mediator and ABC representative of the letters column, called him a fascist! You didn't criticize him, you described him as a monster!

J.H. WILLIAMS III
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Now, I assume that calling Giuliani "hell-bent on inflicting his own moral code" concerns that business with the museum exhibit funded by the National Endowment for the Arts. You guys know how it works; if you put something in your book that is too disgusting or morally repulsive (yes, I used the word "morally" to argue a point), people stop buying because the element of offense outweighs the aesthetic and emotional pleasure. Shouldn't that be the way it works for almost all art forms, not just comic books? Why must everyone pay big bucks for something an itsy-bitsy fraction of the population enjoys?

I guarantee the NEA doesn't spend too much taxpayers' money on struggling comic book artists who strive for the quality I see every month from ABC. Did any ABC artists ever get funded by the NEA? Why do you guys feel like you owe them something? Artists are NOT all part of a brotherhood. It is NOT a victory for all artists when those who create the most controversial pieces are awarded financing. Quite the contrary.

I don't mean to be too harsh on PROMETHEA; it certainly beats any like series put out by any other company (ABC is the best company out there, incidentally). But is it wise to distance a portion of your audience even further by bringing extreme political opinion into the book, especially in the letter column where ABC is personally represented? I love your company, I love Alan Moore's work, and I want you guys to keep on succeeding, but I found myself completely enraged by your comment about "Big Rudy" in issue 4, and I can't for the life of me find the answer when I ask myself, "Now why'd they have to go and say that?"

A lover of art, justice, and freedom (!).
Patrick DeMoss
Bensalem, PA

Now, Patrick, there is such a thing as taking a snide comment too seriously, but obviously you are passionate in your support of certain city officials. So, too, do you now have your opinions available for public consumption. Though we wonder if your thoughts on the NEA wouldn't be met with some disagreement... We can only hope you'll put the frustration aside and stay with our non-government-funded book.

Dear Mr. Moore & Co.

I've never had much of an interest in what might be called the fantasy genre, but four issues into reading PROMETHEA, and I'm hooked. Your cast of characters grows more intriguing, the plot more engaging, and I await the next issue burning with anticipation. This is unlike anything else out there, and I'm thoroughly entranced.

I've been reading the entire ABC line and have never been more satisfied. Two questions:

1) Will you be releasing a trade paperback of collected PROMETHEA issues or the other ABC comics? I'd really love to pass along some of this literature to my non-comic reading friends. Perhaps you'd consider publishing a collection of the first issues of all ABC comics or the first few issues of one, as in the recently released LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN collections. (But please include the back-stories from the first issues!)

2) I'm glad you don't have any crossovers planned for the near future. There's so much to explore in each of these comics' separate worlds. But in TOP TEN 4, while

King Peacock and Synesthesia are investigating The Hall of Genius Nazis at the museum, they pass by a statue (pg. 14 panel 1) that looks remarkably like one of the Prometheas – Grace to be exact. Whattup?

Even better than t,
Aman Chaudhary
sent by e-mail

Hold your horses, Aman! We're barely six issues out the gate and you already want a collection? Truth be told, individual issues of PROMETHEA are still available, but if you have any gaps, your local comic book retailer will be more than happy to place an order for any back issues. Don't get us wrong, a collected edition is a great format, but one for this series is a significant ways off. The main reason LEAGUE was collected so hurriedly was that issues consistently sold out. For your second question: Promethea as a Genius Nazi?? Doubtful.

Imaginary Lines:

Oh, how sad was the beautiful and moving love story of Charlton Sennet and Anna/Promethea. Ah, that we all might have someone with whom we'd be lost in the utter joy of shared love, though hopefully with a happier ending!!

I was bemused and amused at how this romantic and touching flashback was so cleverly juxtaposed with the past Prometheas' interacting in Misty Magic Land. Alan, how do you write for women so well? You captured beautifully the playful cattiness of the current, the fading, and the past Prometheas, plus Stacia and Margie.

I absolutely adore this title, as I do all of the other ABC titles. The art team is marvelous, as well. Bravo! Or should it be, "Brava, Promethea!"? For surely, she is your muse, Alan?

Amy Walker
Sacramento, CA

Dear Imaginary Lines,

I could go on and on about how PROMETHEA is my hands down favorite of Alan Moore's ABC Comics. I could go on and on about how much joy I get reading PROMETHEA. I could go on and on about page four. I could go on and on about how incredible this art team is. However, I have something much more important on my mind. I DON'T WANT BARBARA TO DIE!!!

Sincerely,
Chuck McKinney
New York, NY

Gee... no one likes delivering bad news, so we won't. Barbara's fate is what it is.

Mything Links,

(Mything Lynx? Now that sounds like an Alan Moore character.)

Just finished reading PROMETHEA 4 for the second time. It was brilliant. Brilliantly written. Brilliantly illustrated. Just bloody brilliant. I was deeply impressed with and moved by its brilliance.

Of course, I'd be even more impressed and moved if I had the vaguest frickin clue what the fug is going on in this bloody comic book magazine.

Is clarity in one's writing no longer considered a virtue?

D.
sent by e-mail

All part of the master plan, "D." We think last issue should have enlightened many of our readers as to the ideas behind the Promethean Mythos. Although there was a chap over in the TOM STRONG lettercol whose clairvoyance on such matters, however brief, was downright spooky.

Dear Imaginary Lines,

Once again the hazards of dealing with the fairie realms are displayed for all us mortals to take heed and make sure we stay away from the wicked little vixens. Truly different this time around was the imaginary baby. Where the hell did you think up that one, Alan? I hope you guys paid Charles Vess an awful lot of money because he deserves it, plus I want to see more Ballads and Sagas from him. He is one of the best artists working today and you guys bagged him, if only for eight pages. Eight very appropriate pages at that. No one draws fairies like Vess.

Boy, that Jack the Faust guy was a mean old coot, huh? And he worships Set and their like, too. This is too cool. Hope this disgusting yet interesting character comes back to play a bigger role later. So is Barbara dead? Well, we will see. Until we meet in the dreamlands...

H.J. Courtemanche
Lowell, MA

To All Involved,

I really really like this comic. When I bought issue 1, I was intrigued, felt it was a great concept, but also felt that it just wasn't my thing. I had no intention of buying issue 2. I did that as a favor to a friend, who insists I buy everything Alan Moore. I dig the occult, and this issue was just full of it. I got to liking the character even more, and yet, still no intention to buy issue 3. No intention, that is, until I looked through it and saw Promethea punching a monkey. Sold! And I have not denied my love of the comic since.

Issue 4 was super (if a tad overdue). I could try to explain what it is exactly about the comic I like, but it would seem like small praise for something that I like so much. There is just something about this character and the series that is so compelling for me that it has become something I feel I must read as much as something I feel I want to read. It is like the phrase on the cover of issue one. "If she did not exist, we would have to invent her." Thank you, Mr. Moore, for inventing her, and thank you ABC, for bringing her to me.

Yours,
Geoffrey Batchelar
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

PS: I looked it up. Should have been a wolf with wings and a serpent's tail, not a bull, and a black raven-headed man, not owl. But perhaps Mr. Moore is more conversant in the area of Goetic Magic than I.

Very kind words, Geoffrey. A smack to the Weeping Gorilla works on so many levels. Of things Goetic, there was more than one learned reader who told of alternate anthropomorphic demons. We're poking our heads a little deeper into the subject, but luckily our illustrated tales allow for a bit of "artistic license."

That's all we have for now, but the saga continues wholeheartedly next issue. Be sure to join us by the fire for PROMETHEA 7!